LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-20 (canceled).

21. (new) A method of setting a plurality of timeframes in a period, the period comprising equal time units, a total time in the plurality of timeframes being equal to a total time in the period, at least one controlled event being independently programmable to occur at the same time within each time unit of the respective timeframe, the method comprising the step of:

setting each timeframe to include a portion of a time unit that is less than a complete time unit.

22. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of setting includes setting each timeframe so as to begin with a portion of a time unit less than a complete time unit and to end with a portion of a time unit that is less than a complete time unit.

23. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the plurality of timeframes is two timeframes.

24. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein the period comprises a week and the time units comprise days of the week.

25. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein a first timeframe begins at a first time during a first time unit and ends at a second time during a second time unit and the second timeframe begins just after the second time of the second time unit and ends just before the first time of the first time unit.

26. (new) The method of claim 25, wherein the first time is about noon on Sunday and the second time is about noon on Friday, the first timeframe comprising a weekday timeframe and the second timeframe comprising a weekend timeframe.

27. (new) A method of setting a plurality of sequential timeframes that each include at least one time unit of a period, the period comprising equal time units having time unit start and end times, each timeframe having timeframe start and end times wherein the timeframe start time is the same as the time unit start time of the first time unit in the timeframe, a total time in the plurality of timeframes being equal to a total time in the period, the total time in each timeframe being equal to a total time in the time units comprising the timeframe, at least one controlled event being independently programmable to occur at the same time within each time unit of the respective timeframe, the method comprising the steps of:

partitioning the time units into time sub units having time sub unit start and end times; and

setting each timeframe to include a plurality of time sub units, wherein the timeframe start time is shifted to be the same as the time sub unit start time of the first time unit in the timeframe and the total time in each respective timeframe remains the same.

28. (new) A method of controlling occurrence of at least one scheduled event, the at least one event occurring in a period of time divided into sequential units of equal duration, each unit having a unit start time, the units being grouped into a plurality of timeframes, each timeframe having a timeframe start time, a duration of each timeframe being equal to a duration of all units included in that respective timeframe, wherein the timeframe start time of each timeframe is equivalent to a unit start time of an initial unit included in that respective timeframe, the at least one scheduled event occurring at the same time in each unit of a respective timeframe, the method comprising the step of:

shifting the timeframe start time of a selected timeframe to a new time within a selected unit that is not a unit start time, wherein the unit start time of each of the plurality of units within the period remains the same and the duration of each timeframe remains the same.

29. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein the plurality of timeframes consists of a first timeframe and a second timeframe.

30. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein the first timeframe substantially defines the weekdays and the second timeframe substantially defines the weekend.

31. (new) The method of claim 30, wherein the shifting step defines the starting and ending times of the first timeframe at noon on Sunday and just before noon on Friday, respectively.

32. (new) The method of claim 30, wherein the shifting step defines the starting and ending times of the second timeframe at noon on Friday and just before noon on Sunday, respectively.